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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of ) Group Art Unit: 1646  
Anthony Steven Weiss ) Examiner:  
Appln. No. 09/743,818 )  
Filed: April 26, 2001 )  
For: PROTEASE SUSCEPTIBILITY II ) May 30, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT C**

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

**In the Claims**

Cancel claims 1-22, 42-44, and the claim incorrectly number 87 without prejudice.

Add new claims 45-88 as follows.

B, 45. A method for reducing or eliminating the susceptibility of a tropoelastin to proteolysis comprising mutating a sub-sequence in the tropoelastin so that the susceptibility of the tropoelastin to proteolysis is reduced or eliminated.

46. A method according to claim 45 wherein one sub-sequence is mutated.

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on May 30, 2001.

Signature Debra N. Gerstemeier

Typed or printed name Debra N. Gerstemeier